

Processed Blackberry Marketing Order Proponent Committee

February 5, 2004

A. J. Yates, Administrator
Agriculture Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Room 3071, STOP 0201
Washington, DC 20250-0201

Dear Mr. Yates,

The Oregon/Washington Blackberry Marketing Order Proponent Committee hereby withdraws its Request for a Hearing to receive testimony on the proposed blackberry marketing order. We further withdraw all other requests made by the proponent committee to USDA relating to the blackberry marketing order.

A recent phone survey of the blackberry industry and a subsequent meeting gave the proponent committee clear indication that the growers and other industry members do not support the proposal as submitted. It also appears that, even with significant changes to the proposal, sufficient support would still be unlikely.

The proponent committee wishes to thank all personnel in the Department who have had a hand in the process to this point. Your entire staff at the Portland field office and in the Marketing Order Administrative Branch and on up to your office have been very proficient and helpful at every step. It's been our pleasure to work with them in this effort.

Please let us know if there are any other formal steps that need to be taken to assure the blackberry industry that the current marketing order promulgation effort has ended.

Best regards

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